



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

December 20, 2007

Hello Friends:

### **SPECIAL EDITION – HEALTH CARE**

This week, the California State Assembly passed the most **significant State expansion of health care coverage** in the nation. Most Californians, including all children, are covered under the plan.

**Assembly Bill 1X1** is the culmination of nearly a year of negotiations between legislative leaders, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the state's leading labor, business, health care, and consumer groups. Dozens of organizations have embraced the bill, including the Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AARP, California Hospital Association, Safeway, March of Dimes, Children Now, Mental Health Association of California, American Nurses Association of California, California Association of Nurse Practitioners, Kaiser Permanente, CIGNA, Blue Shield, and Small Business California.

**I was pleased to publicly present this historic legislation to the Central Valley at a press conference with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, Assemblymember Juan Arambula, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry and community leaders.**

AB 1X1 was amended on the Assembly floor, incorporating ideas from a number of stakeholders. It relies on a system of shared responsibility between employers, health care providers, consumers, and government agencies. It requires an individual mandate for most Californians, but provides subsidies, rebates, and exemptions for Californians earning up to 450% of the federal poverty line, or for those whose out-of-pocket health expenses would exceed 6.5% of family income. The bill includes significant cost-containment and transparency language, including a requirement that insurance companies spend no more than 15 cents of every dollar on administrative costs. Those with pre-existing conditions are guaranteed coverage under the plan, and all children will be covered.

It is financed through system wide health care cost savings, and through a combination of fees and taxes to be approved by the voters in a November 2008 ballot initiative that will include a tobacco tax, employer fee assessed along a sliding scale based on annual payroll, and a hospital fee.

It now heads to the California State Senate for consideration. For bill information, visit:  
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>

**HERE'S TO A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAYS! ALL THE BEST IN 2008!**

**Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

**Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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